

5-28-2006

## 36th Chicano Commencement, 2006

San Jose State University, Associated Students

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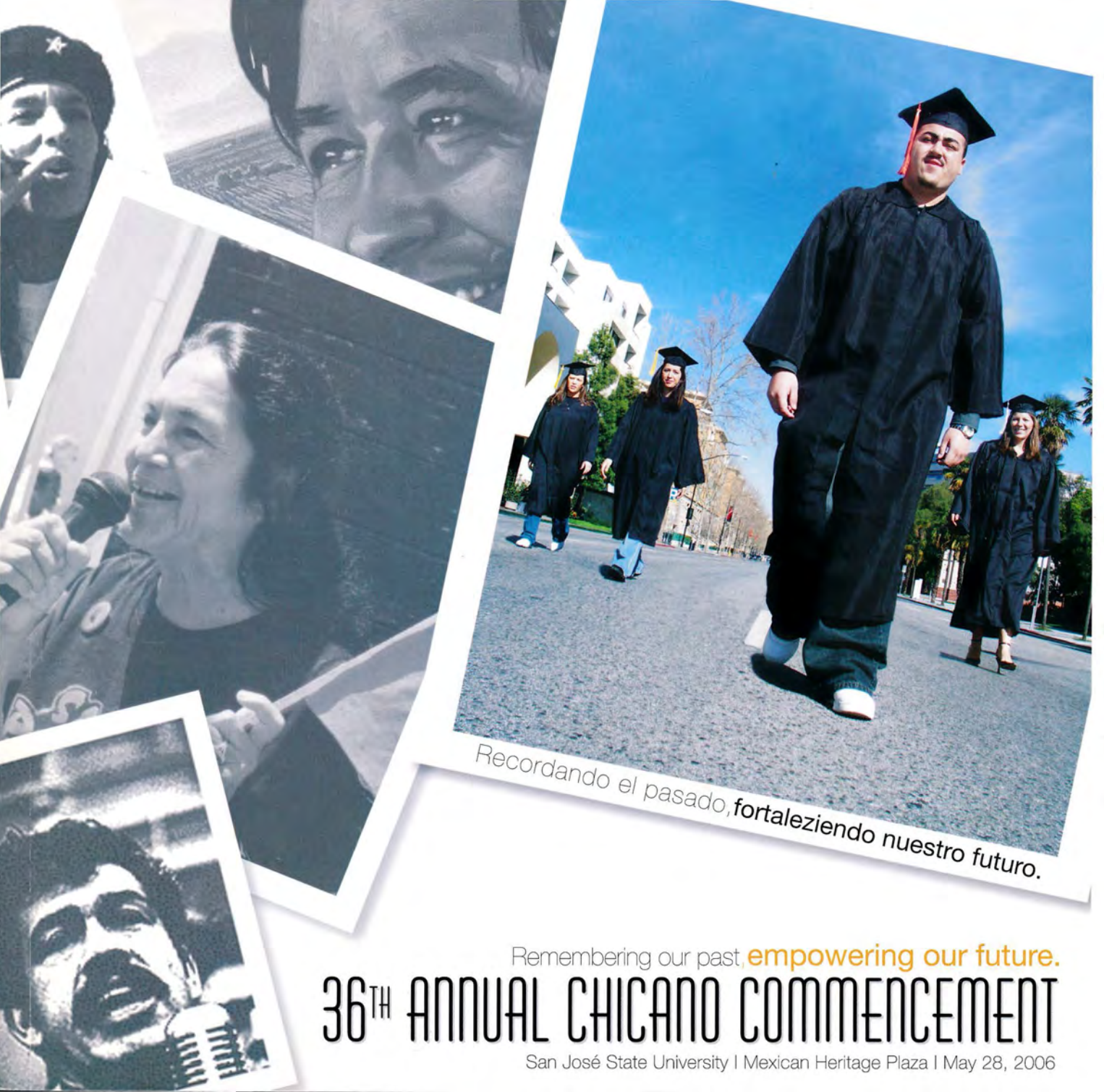
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Recordando el pasado, fortaleciendo nuestro futuro.

Remembering our past, **empowering our future.**

# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

San José State University | Mexican Heritage Plaza | May 28, 2006



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2006

**Commencement** is not only the culmination of your college career, but also the beginning of your life as alumni of San José State University. Today, you join the ranks of leaders and professionals who have graduated from this institution. Like them, your role will be to help shape our society's development. You, as well as your family and friends, should be proud of the accomplishments and contributions that you have made as students at the University. Education is a life-long process, and I wish you well as you continue your intellectual accomplishments and personal growth.

On behalf of the entire San José State University community, **Felicidadez!**

*Don W. Kassing*

Don W. Kassing | President

felicidadez!





# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

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Recordando el pasado, **fortaleziendo nuestro futuro.**  
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## History

A graduation celebration born in a time of protest has survived into an era of relative calm on the San Jose State University campus that thrives today. Chicano Commencement, a separate graduation celebration at SJSU, continues to serve as a reminder that all is not well for Chicano students. The ceremony began in June 1970, when the regular commencement exercise at SJSU was marked by protest -- against the Vietnam War, discrimination and environmental degradation. Consumer activist Ralph Nader was the keynote commencement speaker for the ceremony. Chicano students picketed the event. "We said why not just shine all that and do what is culturally ours," recalled Chris Jimenez, a 1970 graduate and now an administrator at Mission College in Santa Clara. "And our cultural ties center on our families." "The commencement is an extension of the closeness and camaraderie of the relatively small group of Chicanos on campus," Jimenez said. "The Chicano students always had to support each other. We loaned each other money and helped each other get jobs. So we became best friends almost out of necessity," Jimenez said. "We did many things together, such as tutoring each other, that sort of thing." Chris Jimenez and Mauro Chavez first became friends while waiting in line for class registration. Chavez had been short by \$10 to cover his tuition fees, and Jimenez always willing to help someone in need lent him the money. Incidentally, both Jimenez and Chavez were sociology majors and became best friends from then on. The 36th annual Chicano Commencement will be held as a celebration to the spirit of accomplishment and in gratitude to our families. An estimated 900 plus Spanish-surnamed students will graduate this year. In 1970, there were fewer than 30 said Mauro Chavez, a 1971 graduate. "It was a way of some how letting the university know that we were not being fully represented on campus in terms of the number of students and the numbers in our community," had stated Chavez. He served as associate vice president for arts and sciences, and a social science professor at Evergreen Valley College in San José, before dying of leukemia at the age of 45 in 1992. During his time, he noted that the number of Chicanos attending SJSU was far from representative of their numbers in the area. For Chicanos or Latinos, it's also a very important milestone to graduate from College. Young, educated, spirited adults will rise again from this years 36th Chicano Commencement ceremony. Teachers, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs and more with be represented in communities, by "la raza." Chicano Commencement is committed to honor college bound Chicano/Latino students, to encourage high education, community involvement and continually promoting the advancement of all Chicanos/Latinos people.



Patricia Rocha

Chicano Commencement Co-Chair, 2006





### **Patty Herrera**

Director, Multi-Cultural Initiatives | Oakland Raiders

Patty Herrera graduated from San Jose Staté University in 1994 with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Spanish. Patty began her professional career working for Kaiser Permanente Health Plan Marketing. In 2002 Patty joined the Oakland Raiders and given the task of creating a Hispanic Initiatives Department.

Before joining the Raiders Hispanic Initiatives program Patty was a Raiderette for 8 years and was a captain for three. In 1999 she was awarded Raiderette of the Year where she represented the Raiders at the Pro Bowl in 2000. She participated in the 2001 American Bowl in Mexico, the 2000 Pro Bowl and the 2002 Super Bowl. Patty has been involved in numerous charity and community events over the years such as The Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, American Diabetes Association, Easter Seals and the Alameda 4th of July Parade.

In 2004 Patty was promoted to Director of Multi-Cultural Initiatives.

### **David Ocampo**

President | Milagro Marketing

David Ocampo has been developing creative brand-building campaigns for over 10 years and has worked in a variety of community relations and marketing positions for over 15 years.

David has a MA degree in Mexican American Studies and an Undergraduate degree in Advertising from San José State University. David has also studied Advertising at The National Taiwan Academy of Arts in Taipei Taiwan. Before opening Milagro Marketing, David was the Director of Marketing for the Mexican Heritage Corporation and was instrumental in driving creative strategies securing audience participation for one of the nations largest Hispanic cultural arts facilities, the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

David lives with his wife Sonia and two children in San Jose California.





## Master of Ceremony | Honoree

### **Damian Trujillo**

Investigative Reporter | KNTV 11

Damian has been honored with awards from the Associated Press, the Radio and Television News Director's Association (RTNDA), and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. He is a former member of the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). Damian was recently named "2004 Reporter of the Year" by the Associated Press radio and Television Association for California and Nevada and twice nominated for an Emmy Award. In his spare time, he enjoys golf and volunteering with school children. Damian grew up in Greenfield, about 2 hours south of San Francisco on Highway 101. While in high school, Damian worked in the agricultural fields of the Salinas Valley, with his family, to help make ends meet. Each year, the Trujillo family awards a college scholarship to the son or daughter of a farm worker in Greenfield. Damian holds a bachelor's degree from San José State University. He and his wife, Monica, live with their daughter, Malyna, in the Bay Area.



### **Cindy Chavez**

Vice Mayor and Council Member | City of San José

Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez maintains a sterling reputation as an advocate for improving the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout San José. She is a leader in developing innovative community-based partnerships to address crime, education, small business development and neighborhood revitalization.

Elected in 1998 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2002, Vice Mayor Chavez's tenure is distinguished by visionary leadership -- implementing goals to make every neighborhood safe, enhancing the capacity of residents to have an impact on public policy, and opening up numerous channels for neighborhood leaders to influence and improve city government's services to their communities.

Vice Mayor Chavez is a longtime resident of Downtown San Jose. A 1987 graduate of San José State University, she lives with her husband, Mike Potter, the District Director for State Assemblymember Joe Coto, and son Brennan in the Naglee Park neighborhood.

## **Eddie Garcia**

Chairman of the Board | Mexican Heritage Corporation

Eddie Garcia has worked in politics, business, education, and with community-based organizations for over two decades. He is a native of San José's east side, and a graduate of James Lick High School, and San Jose State University, where he earned a place on the Dean's list in the History Department.

Eddie is the Director of Government Affairs for Comcast Cable Communications in the South Bay. Responsible for maintaining corporate communications with Members of Congress, State Legislators, and local elected officials who represent the South Bay area

Prior to his career in the telecommunications industry, he was the legislative assistant to former San José Vice Mayor Blanca Alvarado, served as campaign manager for her successful election to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Eddie is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San José and serves on several other community boards. Recently, he was selected for a fellowship at the American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley – a non-profit organization that brings business, education, political, and community leaders together to work on issues to improve our community.

Eddie is married to Sandra Peralta, a Principal in the Alum Rock Union School District. Eddie and Sandra have two daughters: twelve-year-old Marisa and eight-year old Erica.









# agenda

2:30-4:00 pm | Check in /Social/ Music by Los Regionales

4:00-5:30 pm | Dinner/ Welcome

5:30-6:00 pm | Grupo Folklorico Luna Y Sol &

Presentation of Award to Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez

6:00-6:10 pm | Graduate Walk In

6:10-6:25 pm | Keynote Speaker Eddie Garcia

6:25-8:00 pm | Ceremony & Graduate Speeches

8:00-11:00 pm | Dj Sonido Digital



## Letter from the Co-Chairs

Welcome graduates, family and friends to this our thirty sixth annual Chicano Commencement celebration. Today on May 28, 2006 together we stand here at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, to celebrate our academic accomplishment with our peers, friends and family. We are the proud class of 2006 and for that we thank all those who helped us get to this day.

Throughout our academic journey we have worked hard, played hard and learned who we are, and who we want to be. Most importantly we've learned that with perseverance and sheer determination, we are able to triumph over any fears or obstacles that may be placed in our path through out life. These obstacles and fears that we have triumphed, our journeys have become both of success and pride.

At the same time we are now able to stand proud of our accomplishments, we must also recognize that we have not gone through this journey without help of our loved ones. Together, we, the SJSU class of 2006 stands high, "Honoring our past, and empowering our future".

Bienvenidos graduados, familia, y nuestras amistades a la celebración anual número treinta y seis de Chicano Commencement. Hoy, el 28 de mayo del 2006, todos unidos aqui en la Plaza de Herencia Mexicana, celebramos nuestros logros academicos con ustedes. Somos la orgullosa clase del 2006, y por eso les damos gracias a ustedes.

Durante nuestra carrera académica hemos trabajado muy duro y al mismo tiempo gozado de nuestras experiencias. Pero lo mas importante que hemos aprendido es que con determinación podemos lograr todas las metas que nos ponemos, hasta hoy y para el resto de la vida. Estos obstáculos y temores que hemos vencido. Nuestra jornada ha sido de éxito y orgullo.

Estamos orgullosos de nuestra realización y talentos. Reconocemos que sin el apoyo y la unidad de ustedes no podriamos lograr lo que hemos logrado.

Juntos, nosotros, la clase del 2006 de la Universidad de San José orgullosamente "Honramos nuestro pasado",





**Patricia Rocha-Fernandez**

Major: B.S. in Public Relations/Communications

Primero le doy gracias a Dios por darme esta vida. A mis padres que desde chica me enseñaron que para triunfar se tiene que sufrir un poco. Con su esfuerzo y trabajo de cada día, lograron su sueño mas grande, una familia unida. Hoy es un nuevo día, un día para reflexionar, un día para aspirar. Al fin puedo cosechar todos mis esfuerzos que tanto me platicaba mi mamá. Gracias por su apoyo, el cariño y todo el trabajo que han hecho por mi y mis hermanos. Mi único deseo es que en este día esten orgullosos de mi. To my brothers and sisters, thank you for showing me the way. For allowing me to make my own mistakes and learning from them. For always supporting my ideas and dreams, aspirations and goals, you have continuously encouraged me to reach them. I have commenced my higher learning of my education. I only hope now I can follow the philosophy of a great leader, "The end of all education should surely be the service to others."—Cesar Chavez

**Luis Ruiz**

Major: B.S. in Civil Engineering | Minor: Business Administration

Hoy en este día doy gracias a mis padres, por sus rezos y esfuerzos que han sido mi apoyo para salir adelante y por siempre inculcarme humildad. Entre sus enseñanzas aprendí que en esta vida se tiene que trabajar y sufrir antes de lograr el triunfo. To Dre and Big Red what else can I say but "Family above all", thanks for being my road dawgs through this journey that I had embarked in this part of my life and for watching my back through thick and thin. To all those special someone's who need not be mentioned, cause they know who they are, thanks for never allowing me to take the easy way out in life and quitting. Thanks for believing in me when most others wouldn't take the time to do so. Por ultimo, quiero dar gracias ha mi familia de sangre y mi familia elegida



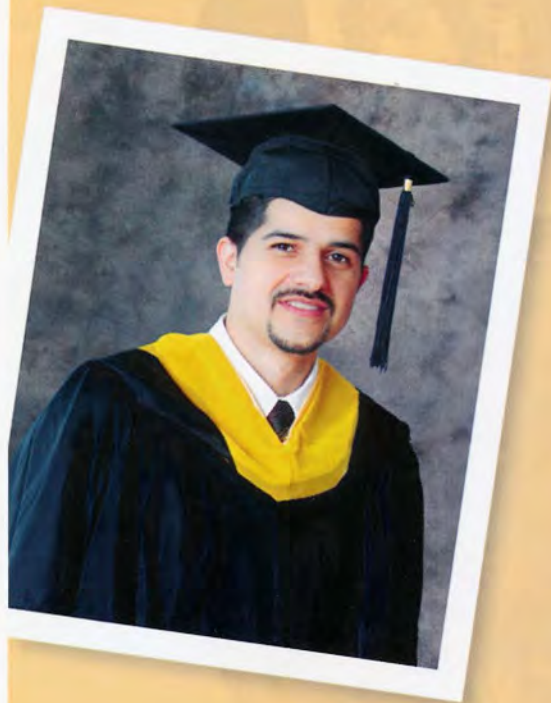


## Los Graduados | Masters Degree

### **Melissa Alvarado Lechuga**

**Masters: Social Work | Major: B.A. in Psychology | Minor: Sociology**

It's been 3 years since graduation and what do you know, here I am again, GRADUATING, this time it's a MASTER'S DEGREE, wuuu huuu!! I am a woman of my word, I always finish what I start.....SLOWLY but surely. Thanks Ma Y Pa, I knew I could always count on you to turn off the lights everytime I fell asleep studying. Thank you God, for believing in me. To infinity and beyond.....that's how I feel.....oh and just to let you know, I'm still not moving out until I get married, and that doesn't look like it's going to happen within the next 10 years, sorry if I'm intruding a bit into your retirement, but the good news is..... you can still buy me that BMW if you want :)) I'd like to thank my brother and his band for playing tonight, you can reach LOS REGIONALES AT 1-415-225-5700.



### **Samuel Duarte Aguirre**

**Major: Civil Engineering in Transportation | Minor: Construction**

First let me thank my linda esposa, Eva, for putting up with my moodiness each semester, and for always being there for me. T.Q.M. To my hija, Maya, papos loves you, and hopes for the best en tu camino y destino. Gracias a mis hermanos y querida madre, a mis ser queridos que me cuidan desde el cielo, y a Dios por darme las fuerzas para seguir adelante. Congratulations to my nephews Martin Jr., Carlos Jr., and Alex! Now seguien estudiando! Le quiero dedicar esta Maestria a mi prima, Priscila Oropeza Aguirre, que es una ingeniera civil desde el cielo. D.E.P.

## Los Graduados | Masters Degree

### **Adriana Martinez**

**Major: Civil Engineering in Transportation | Minor: Construction**

First let me thank my linda esposa, Eva, for putting up with my moodiness each semester, and for always being there for me. T.Q.M. To my hija, Maya, papos loves you, and hopes for the best en tu camino y destino. Gracias a mis hermanos y querida madre, a mis ser queridos que me cuidan desde el cielo, y a Dios por darme las fuerzas para seguir adelante. Congratulations to my nephews Martin Jr., Carlos Jr., and Alex! Now seguien estudiando! Le quiero dedicar esta Maestría a mi prima, Priscila Oropeza Aguirre, que es una ingeniera civil desde el cielo. D.E.P.



### **Mariana Rocha**

**Major: Civil Engineering in Transportation | Minor: Construction**

Quisiera agradecerle a mi esposo José Guadalupe Rocha por todo su apoyo y amor incondicional. Mi hijo Esteban a llegado a nuestras vidas y las ha llenado de alegría. A mis papas Jesús y Maria Quintero les agradezco todo su esfuerzo, amor y apoyo. A mi familia querida Rosario, Roberto, Marlene, Rachelle, Amparo, Mario, Mario Jesús, Alejandro, Karla y Rolando gracias por ser una familia unida. Los quiero mucho a todos!





## Los Graduados | Masters Degree

### **Marisela Sigala**

Major: Masters fo Social Work | Minor: School Focus PPSC

Finally its over! Mario, I'm proud of your accomplishments, perseverance and dedication, to my brothers, Sergio & Beto I love you & I will always be here for you. To my baby, thank you for making me laugh, even when I didn't want to. Molly, you have been such an important part of my life. Kaytlyn, I will always be here for you, Isela, thanks for being my best friend. Mommie and Papi, I am proud to be your daughter. Abuelita, te quiero mucho. XOXO Mari









## **Mayra Aguilera**

Major: B.S. in Business Administration, Concentration in Marketing

Gracias Dios por la oportunidad de graduarme y de poder celebrarlo con mi familia. Gracias a mis padres, Manuel y Maria, por creyendo en mi! Los Quiero Muchisimo! Gracias a mis hermanos - Omar y Danny, Abuelos, Tios, y Primos! Gracias mis LoCas Gris y Sandra! Thanks to my LSG grlz! Marcos, thanks for your support, your belief in me! Te amo bebe!



## **Carlos Roman Alarcon**

Major: B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

I would like to thank my family, without them I don't feel I would be where I am at now. To my mother, I would like to thank her for believing in me when others didn't. To my father, I would thank you for believing in me, also, for passing all your knowledge to me. To rest of my family and friends, I would like to thank them for making this experience unforgettable.

## **Sandra Patricia Alcaraz**

Major: B.A. in Sociology with Concentration in Criminology

Gracias Dios por hacer mi sueño realidad. A mi familia, especialmente a mis Padres, gracias por todo su apoyo incondicional. Los extraño muchísimo pero, ustedes fueron mi motivación para seguir adelante. Tía mire ya termine! Gris, Mayra and Carla, we did it! Jose, thanks for all your support. MC EOPS staff, thanks! Gracias a todas las personas que de una manera o otra me ayudaron para llegar a mi meta.



## **Sandra Alvarado**

Major: B.S. in Justice Studies

Muchísimas gracias a mi familia, especialmente a mis padres queridos por apoyarme y enseñarme el valor de una educación y por darme lo más bueno que unos padres puedan dar a una hija. No hay nada en el mundo más mejor en mi vida como la familia que dios me he dado. Thank you for letting me be the most spoiled child too!







## **Susana Anaya**

Major: B.A. in Child Development

Gracias mommy y daddy, sin su apoyo y cariño no hubiera podido cumplir esta meta. Danny thanks for being you and always helping me out, you're a good brother that cares for his sis, love ya. Many thanks to my family for all their support and love. To my girls, thanks for your help and support, couldn't have done it without you guys either. I'm finally out!



## **Martin Ayala**

Major: B.S. in Business Finance

Minor: Spanish, Physics, and Mathematics

Me gustaria agradecer a mis padres Martin y Emma por todo el apoyo y amor que me dieron durante mi carrera. También me gustaria agradecer a mi novia Stephanie Cisneros en ayudarme en mis estudios. Durante mi tiempo estudiando en la universidad habian momentos donde estaba cansado y perdido mis padres y mi novia fueron las personas que me dieron energia y dirección. Finalmente me gustaria agradecer a mis hermanos de Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

## **eticia Barajas**

Major: B.A. in Sociology emphasis in Criminology

Gracias Dios por hacer mi sueño realidad. A mi familia, especialmente a mis Padres, gracias por todo su apoyo incondicional. Los extrañe muchísimo pero, ustedes fueron mi motivación para seguir adelante. Tía mire ya termine! Gris, Mayra and Carla, we did it! Jose, thanks for all your support. MC EOPS staff, thanks! Gracias a todas las personas que de una manera o otra me ayudaron para llegar a mi meta.



## **Lynette Michelle Beltran**

Major: B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Anthropology

I would like to thank my parents for all they have done to ensure a better future for myself as well as my brother. I thank my father for his endless support, my mother for her guidance, my brother for being my motivation and my grandparents for their inspiration. I am the first of my family to graduate college and could not have done so without their love and support. I love you all very much!







## **Yolanda Gabriela Bernal**

Major: B.A. in Sociology, Concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Spanish and Mexican-American Studies

Este título es dedicado a mis padres, quienes sacrificaron para poder darme un futuro mejor. Gracias por su apoyo y amor. Los quiero tanto. Melissa, thank you for leading the way, you made it look easy. You're a great role model. Ed, you are my driving force, the reason I want to be better, remember your next. I love you both. To lovely ladies of Lambda Sigma Gamma, my sisters, I love you all. IPSE.



## **Pierre Briseño**

Major: Administration of Justice | Minor: Economics

I would like to thank my parents, for giving me the support to pursue my dream. You have given me the strength and the will to pursue my dream, when I was ready to give up. Your love and determination will forever be cherished, and as a result of being great parents, I give you this gift, of being able to see your son walk across the stage, becoming a graduate of SJSU. THANK YOU!

## **Laggy Casteñano**

Major: Post-Baccalaureate in Communication Studies  
Minor: B.A. in Political Science

mi fe en Dios me da licencia para seguir adelante. Le agradezco a mis padres Juan Candelaria Castellon por haber tenido el valor de venir a este país en busca de una vida mejor. Espero que este diploma sirva como un pequeño fruto de las raíces que mi familia ha plantado en mí. Mona~Olga~Adrian~Glo~Meli: Thanks for walking by my side in this thing we call LIFE. LSG my love for you is eternal <3



## **Jonathan Mardonio Cholula**

Major: B.A. in Psychology | Minor: Justice Studies

Well mom the day is finally here and I made it. I did it! Usted me dio las ganas, el poder, y la fuerza a realizar mis aspiraciones. MOM, this diploma is as much yours as it is mine. Soy el reflejo de todos sus sacrificios. AMÁ y APÁ agradezco todo los concejos, el amor, y el apoyo que me han dado. A toda mi familia CHOLULA los quiero much, y muchísimas gracias!







## **Estrella Cristal Correa**

Major: B.A. Radio Television Film | Minor: Theatre Arts

I want to thank my parents, Elena and Villedo, for all of their support and for teaching me the value of hard work and education. I hope I have been a good role model and inspiration to my little sisters, Vicky, Nena and Lisa. Thanks for all the laughs. To my big sister Suzy, I am so lucky to have grown up with you. Thank you for all the memories and support. You truly are my best friend. Last but not least, to Frankie, thank you for helping me become the person I am today. I love you all.



## **Deisy Covarrubias**

Major: B.A. in Behavioral Science and Sociology,  
Concentration in Criminology

Primeramente quiero darle gracias a Dios, a mi nina, y a mi hermanita que desde el cielo me han guiado, ayudándome a llegar a este día. Este titulo esta dedicado a mis padres que por su esfuerzo, apoyo, y amor he podido realizar esta meta de mi vida. Especialmente, les quiero dar gracias a mis hermanas Judy, Alejandra y Lizette que nunca dejaron de creer en mí. You guys are the best, I love you!

## **Francisco Diaz**

Major: B.A. in Kinesiology

Muchas gracias a todos los que me acompañan en este día tan especial para mí. Le agradezco a mi familia y a mis amigos por haberme apoyado durante mi carrera. En especial le doy las gracias a mis padres por haberme apoyado en todas las formas, sin el apoyo de ustedes este sueño nunca se me hubiera echo realidad. Gracias a todos.



## **Veronica Escamilla Zavala**

Major: B.S. in Microbiology | Minor: Chemistry & Business Administration

I want to thank my friends and family for always being there for me. I especially would like to thank you dad for supporting me in every way and for everything you have given me, especially the gift of an education. I love you very much. To my husband, Jose, thanks for always being there to give me that extra push when I needed it. Mom, finalmente lo hice. Te quiero mucho.





## Freedom and Opportunity, Not Language, Define American Values

Article By Eddie García



As third- and fourth-generation Mexican-Americans, my two young daughters and I walked side-by-side with a sea of marchers May 1 to demonstrate our support for immigrant rights. I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride to see so many people exercise the most American of values -- free speech. I was proud of the courage displayed by those who marched, and I relished that we, as a country, have progressed and matured since the days of violence on civil rights demonstrators by Southern authorities with fire hoses and attack dogs. To be sure, our nation needs to have a thoughtful debate on



immigration, especially with respect to undocumented workers. The discussion should include all relevant public policy issues. Unfortunately, the segment of our populace that is fixated on the notion that immigration dilutes American culture and values continues to hamper meaningful discussion. Not only do those beliefs hinder thoughtful debate, they also falsely imply that American values are connected to language and culture.

Our values were born during the American Revolution and memorialized in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. From Jefferson's declaration that all people have a right to pursue happiness to the freedoms outlined in the Bill of Rights, American values are based on the concepts of human dignity and freedom. Nowhere in those seminal documents do the Founding Fathers proclaim that proficiency in English, a hearty appetite for apple pie, or a specific ethnic heritage are requirements for American values. The basis for our values is simple -- the belief in freedom, hard work and the opportunity to succeed without regard to one's station in society. At best, those who believe otherwise don't truly understand the concept of American values. At worst, they may be xenophobes who are intolerant of diversity.

To illustrate the true notion of American values, the life of my father-in-law, a man I greatly admire, comes to mind. He came to the United States over 50 years ago as a teenager. He worked in the fields of central California, married and moved to San Jose in the 1960s for a construction job and in search of the American dream. He and his wife raised four daughters, all of whom are college-educated and productive members of our community.

My father-in-law is more comfortable speaking in Spanish than in English. He would rather eat a meal of rice and beans than a hamburger and fries. When watching TV, he is more likely to tune into Univision instead of CNN. Those who believe that our nation's values and culture are based on language, food and television habits would argue that my father-in-law doesn't represent American values.

However, for the past 50 years, he has worked hard, paid taxes, financed the education of four children, voted in elections and gratefully struggled in his pursuit of happiness. On a recent trip to Washington, he beamed with pride as he entered the White House for a tour. Based on the concepts outlined by our Founding Fathers, my father-in-law personifies American values and culture -- albeit not in the language that some would have him do so.

The 100,000 demonstrators who marched in San Jose strongly conveyed their belief in American culture by exercising the value of free speech. They may choose the San Jose International Mariachi Festival over the San Jose Jazz Festival, tortillas over wheat bread, and the Star-Spangled Banner in Spanish over English. Nevertheless, it is clear that they believe in the values that our national anthem so eloquently brings to life. They believe in the American dream that my father-in-law embarked on a half century ago.

As Americans, we should continue a healthy debate on immigration, but let's not divert the attention to those who fear diversity under the guise of protecting American values. Those who come to our country already understand our values. That's why they risked all to be here.

Eddie Garcia is chair of the Mexican Heritage Plaza's board of directors. He wrote this article for the Mercury News.

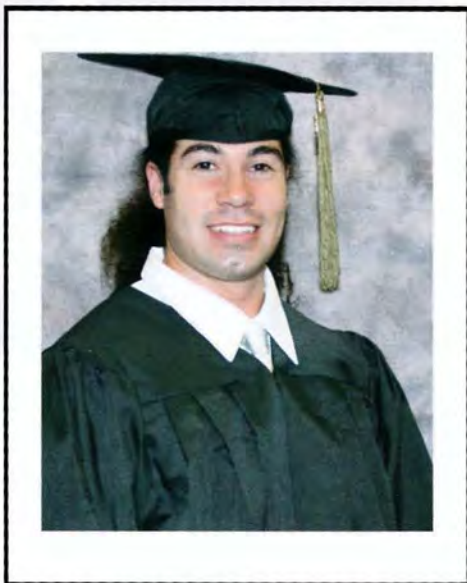




**Hilda Y. Esquivel Bernal**

Major: B.A. in Liberal Studies | Minor: Spanish

Muchas gracias a todos los que me acompañan en este día tan especial para mí. Le agradezco a mi familia y a mis amigos por haberme apoyado durante mi carrera. En especial le doy las gracias a mis padres por haberme apoyado en todas las formas, sin el apoyo de ustedes este sueño nunca se me hubiera echo realidad. Gracias a todos.



**Jose Fernandez Jr.**

Major: B.S. in Kinesiology | Minor: Nutrition

Me gustaria agradecer a mis padres, Maria De Jesus y Jose Fernandez, por el apoyo, amor y animo por cual me an dado durante mi estudio escolar. Tambien a mis hermanos y a mis amigos que me an ayudado en tiempos dificiles.

## **Juan Jose Figueroa Trujillo**

Major: B.A. in Psychology | Minor: Justice Studies

Antes que todo quiero dar las gracias a mis padres Maria Carmen y Pedro Figueroa, a mis hermanos y hermanas, gracias por todo el amor y a poyo que me han brindado todo este tiempo. En estos años eh aprendido mucho, ustedes son lo mas importante para mi y sin ustedes yo no estaria aquí hoy graduandome. Muchas gracias por todo los quiero muchos. Y a todos mis amigos igualmente muchas gracias.



## **Andrea Flores.**

Major: B.S. in Sociology w/ concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Mexican-American Studies

Mom, thank you for your constant encouragement and guidance, you have shaped me into the young woman I am today. David and Marisa, I will always be here for you guys. Grandma, Grandpa, and the rest of my family, thanks for never letting me down. Ernesto, thank you for being my best friend and always being here for me. Jose Luis, Irene, and the whole Vasquez family, thanks for everything. I love you all.







## **Ruben R. Flores**

Major: B.S in Civil Engineering

Le doy gracias a mis padres, Carlos y Maria Garcia, por el apoyo y el amor que me han dado toda mi vida. Gracias a todo su apoyo supe sobresalir y ser una gran persona. Agradezco de todo corazon a Mayra y a mis familiares que estuvieron conmigo en los buenos y malos momentos. Estoy muy orgulloso de pertenecer a la familia, Gamma Zeta Alpha. Les deseo lo mejor de la vida a todos.



## **Carlos Garcia Jr.**

Major: B.S in Civil Engineering

Gracias Apa y Ama por ser un gran ejemplo. Ustedes me han enseñado a trabajar duro para alcanzar mis sueños. Siempre me brindaron su apoyo y estoy bien agradecido. A mis hermanos Mario, Betty y Michael gracias por su cariño. Para mi hijo Carlitos, mi triunfo es para que tu tengas un futuro mejor. Para Monica, gracias por tu amor. Lastly, to my family away from home GAMMA ZETA ALPHA, thanks for the good times.

## **Mario Garcia**

Major: B.S. in Business Marketing

Le doy gracias a mis padres, Carlos y Maria Garcia, por el apoyo y el amor que me han dado toda mi vida. Gracias a todo su apoyo supe sobresalir y ser una gran persona. Agradezco de todo corazon a Mayra y a mis familiares que estuvieron conmigo en los buenos y malos momentos. Estoy muy orgulloso de pertenecer a la familia, Gamma Zeta Alpha. Les deseo lo mejor de la vida a todos.



## **Javier Garibay**

Major: B.A. in Sociology concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Primeramente quiero agradecer a mis padres por todo el apoyo que me han brindado, ellos han sido mi fuerza durante todos estos años. Gracias a ellos soy una mujer capaz de realizar cualquier meta que me proponga. Pero realmente no hay palabras para expresar este agradecimiento tan grande que tengo hacia ellos. También quiero agradecer a mi familia, a mi novio, a mis amigas y por supuesto a mis maestros. Gracias por creer en mí!







## **Grace Gonzalez**

Major: B.A. Sociology with a concentration in Criminology

Primeramente quisiera dar gracias a mis padres, Eugenio y Teresa Gonzalez, por siempre apoyarme en mis estudios y guiarme por un buen camino. Este diploma es dedicado a ellos por todo el trabajo y sacrificio que han hecho por mi. Siempre me enseñaron que nunca me conforme, que siempre busque lo mejor. Tambien quiero darle gracias a mis hermanas/o por creer en mi y a mi mejor amiga Cyndi por acompañarme fielmente en esta jornada.



## **Roxanna Graciano**

Major: B.A. in Child and Adolescent Development

Este triunfo se lo dedico a mis padres a quien quiero muchisimo. Ellos me enseñaron que podría lograr cualquier meta que me pusiera. Trabajaron tanto o tal vez mas que yo para ayudarme a cumplir mis sueños. Sin ellos you no estaria aqui hoy. Tambien me gustaria darle gracias a mi hermana y sobrino por siempre apoyarme y darme cariño. Ningun día pasa que no doy gracias a Dios por la familia maravillosos que me dió.

## **Felipe Gutierrez**

Major: B.A. in Sociology emphasis in Criminology

Primeramente quisiera dar gracias a mis padres, Eugenio y Teresa Gonzalez, por siempre apoyarme en mis estudios y guiarme por un buen camino. Este diploma es dedicado a ellos por todo el trabajo y sacrificio que han hecho por mi. Siempre me enseñaron que nunca me conforme, que siempre busque lo mejor. Tambien quiero darle gracias a mis hermanas/o por creer en mi y a mi mejor amiga Cyndi por acompañarme fielmente en esta jornada.



## **Erika Vanessa Lopez**

Major: B.S. in Business Administration with Marketing Concentration

Looking back, I think of what a crazy ride this has been. Through all the struggles, I always knew there was a troop of great people standing by. Thank you all for being there for me; you know who you are and I will be forever grateful. Nunca hubiera llegado tan lejos sin el apoyo y amor tuyo, mama. Mil gracias por lidiar siempre conmigo y ser mi fortaleza en toda la palabra. Eres maravillosa.







## **Francisca López**

Major: B.A. in Mathematics & Spanish

Este día es especial no solo para mí pero también para mi familia por eso quiero agradecer a mis padres Carmen y Hector por apoyarnos a mi hermano y a mí en nuestros estudios, y por darnos una vida mejor de la que ellos tuvieron. A mi hermano, su esposa, y mis tíos gracias por ayudarme con todo especialmente con dinero. To my roomie, thanks for cooking breakfast for me the first day of school.



## **Adrian Marquez**

Major: B.S in Justice Studies

Quiero agradecerles primeramente a mis padres, Mariano y Yolanda Márquez por su gran apoyo y amor. Me enseñaron a ser la persona que soy hoy: Responsable, honorable y trabajador. También quiero agradecerle a mis hermanos: Jessica, Baldo, Jr, Andrés y a una persona especial Christina. También quisiera agradecerles a todos los que me han ayudado incluyendo a los miembros de esta organización que han hecho los últimos años más agradable, GAMMA ZETA ALPHA.

## **Andrew Martinez**

Major: B.S. in Business Organization and Management

As the years of schooling come to an end, I would like to thank the individuals that helped me achieve my goal of graduation. First I would like to thank my family: my parents Augie and Dee Dee, my grandparents Jess and Olivia, my sister Melissa, my aunt Teri, my cousin Manuel. I would also like to thank Mike Orosco, for helping me with all the math problems that I had trouble with. Last but not least, I would like to thank my brothers of Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity for keeping me focused.



## **Marie Kelly Martinez**

Major: B.S. in Kinesiology emphasis Sport Management | Minor: Business

Gracias Dios por darme la fuerza para seguir adelante cada día. Mom: You've kept me standing; without you, I would have fallen. Papa: Todo sacrificio tiene su recompensa. Siempre han dirigido por buen ejemplo y han mostrado la importancia de humildad y dignidad, por eso les doy gracias. Brothers: Live life, don't let life live you. I love you all. To my extended family and friends: Your faith has fueled my drive to succeed. Mis triunfos son reflejos de ustedes. Gracias!







## **Karina Medina**

Major: B.A. Child Development

Thanks to my sisters, Gloria for supporting me, Delfina for always pushing me to strive for the best and Patty for always being there. And special thanks to my mom for making me a stronger person and believing in me. I also want to thank the ladies of Lambda Sigma Gamma for making my college experience a memorable one. IPSE!!!!



## **Jessica Miranda**

Major: B.A. in Psychology and Behavioral Science

Primero le quiero dar gracias a Dios por darme la fortaleza para realizar mis metas. Every experience life has brought me has taught me the power of persistence. Estoy agradecida de tener el apoyo y amor de mi familia, gracias por creer en mi, Mami y Papi los quiero mucho. To my friends and sisters of Lambda Theta Alpha, you are my second family. Thank you for the memories, I love you all.

## **Grisel Guadalupe Orozco**

Major: B.S. in Psychology | Minor: Social Work

Primariamente quiero darle las gracias a Dios por haberme permitido llegar a este momento tan grande para mi. Tambien quiero darle las gracias a mis padres por todo el apoyo y la motivacion que me han dado para llegar tan lejos. Thanks to my brother, sister-in-law and sister for always putting up with me. To my friends, thanks for always being there for me and for being a part of my life. I love you all!



## **Teresa Pedrizco Romero**

Major: B.A. in Social Science emphasis on Women Studies  
Minor: Political Science

Gracias a todos que de una u otra manera hacen esto posible. Le doy gracias a mi familia, amigos, amigas, y a mi Babe por entender que no puedo salir o estar con ellos porque tengo que estudiar. GRACIAS especialmente a mi 'ma por no apagarme la luz cuando me quedo toda la noche estudiando. Espero NO ser la única en graduarse de la Universidad. Tambien THANKS to M.E.Ch.istas & S.A.H.E.istas for helping me stay up late doing homework. The Power to make a difference is in OUR hands!! "Más vale morir de pie que vivir de rodillas."







### **Anna Cynthia Pie**

Major: B.A. in Behavioral Science and Sociology | Minor: Spanish

I'd like to thank my family, friends and loved ones for all of their compassion, encouragement, and support that they have demonstrated throughout my college education. I'd also like to give a special recognition to my sister Amelia, for believing in me, because she has shown me that with hard work and perseverance I can accomplish anything. Lastly, I'd like to thank God, for my wonderful family and friends who have truly blessed my life.



### **Alejandro Jose Ramirez**

Major: B.A. Social Science with an emphasis in History  
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Broham-Mr. Cool thanks for all of the love and life lessons, they have come in handy. Apple-Ma Blue, thanks for being my big sister even though I always made it tough. Michael Anthony-The little brother I always wanted. Mom and Dad-You two are the reason I am here today, I could not have done it without your love and guidance. I do not know where I would be if I did not have parents like you! You all shaped and changed my life, I hope I have done the same for you. I love you all with all my heart.

## **Rocio Ramirez**

Major: B.S. in Justice Studies | Minor: Sociology

Hoy e realizado un gran sueno! Le quiero primero dar las gracias a Dios. Mom y Dad gracias por el apoyo y el gran amor que me an dado toda mi vida, sin ustedes este sueno no fuera realizado. Viri and Jairo you guys are next to graduate, keep going and keep strong, love you! Enrique I am excited to start our lives together as one, thank you for your love and caring support.



## **Denise Amparo Rodriguez**

Major: B.A. in Social Work | Minor: Spanish

Quiero darle gracias a Dios por darme vida y fuerzas para poder lograr mis metas, a mis Padres, ya que sin su apoyo nunca lo hubiera logrado y mi familia que han estado conmigo, mis amigos y amigas que han estado ahí en los momentos mas dificiles, a mis maestros en especial a Janina Espinoza. Le doy gracias Carlos, por soportarme y cumplirme mis caprichos, y a mi abuelito, porque ha sido como un padre.



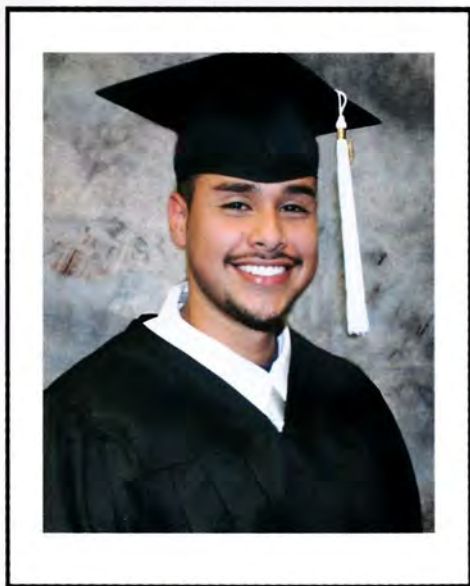




### **Griselda M. Romero**

Major: B.A. in Sociology Concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Criminal Justice Administration

Primeramente, gracias a Dios por este día que se me a hecho realidad. Gracias a mis padres, por todo sus esfuerzos y apoyo. Sin ellos no estuviera aquí. A mis hermanas "Todo es posible. Mírenme! Sus sueños pueden ser realidad!" To my girl Mayra Loc's, thanks for everything I love ya girl. Sandra we finally made it! and Steve thanks for all your support, I love you baby!



### **Mark Jose Rosales**

Major: B.A.Sociology, emphasis in Criminology  
Minor: Mexican American Studies

First and foremost I would like to thank my father, Jose and my mother, Martha. Throughout my entire life my parents have loved me unconditionally, and have always taught me to dream big and to never settle for less. Without the love and support of both my mother and father, the accomplishment of graduating from college would not be a reality. I would also like to give thanks to God for blessing me with a very supportive and loving family.

## Empowering Our Future

Article by Patricia Rocha

During the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, United States track athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos were awarded medals for their athletic efforts. However, the great athletic feat would soon be shadowed by one of the most memorable moments in the American Civil Rights Movement. Tommie Smith and John Carlos would protest the poor treatment of African-American people in the United States and stood to empower the African American community. This is a great symbol for the community of San José State University. Tommie Smith and John Carlos were both students at this prestigious university and showed San José State University students of the present and the future that students can make a difference on the global stage. Tommie Smith's raised right black gloved fist represented black power, the knotted black scarf around his neck represented pride, and the box in his left hand contained an olive tree sapling which stood as an emblem of peace. John Carlos's raised left black gloved fist represented unity in black America and the beads around his neck signified lynchings suffered by blacks. Both men wore black socks but were shoeless during the ceremony to represent black poverty in racist America. Together they formed an arch of unity and power. Racial issues are still a problem that many minorities face in the present time. The 1960s was one of the most volatile and turbulent decades in American history. Today, progress must be made, for our future. For our future will flourish and stride for excellence, but only if we invest in it. Without it we are silenced. Our youth today will become our future. Doctors, lawyers, educators, community leaders and many more will be represented by our people. "Nuestra gente." We must take care of our people, our communities, and our future. We continue to honor our past, and empower our future, today and for the rest of our lives.

Si Se Puede!







### **Patricia Santiago Andrés**

Major: B.A. in Social Science emphasis in Elementary Education  
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Gracias Dios mío por darme vida y salud para poder continuar con mis estudios. Gracias a mis padres, Maria y Celestino, y hermanas Maria A. y Rosy por darme todo su apoyo y por siempre estar a mi lado. Gracias al resto de mi familia por creer en mi. Quiero agradecer a todos los MEChistAs que han sido mi inspiracion y ejemplo a seguir. Hondo & Ali, I love you guys. My Q.C. ladies, thanks for all your support. I love you ladies. Finalmente quiero agradecerle a Rey por todo su apoyo y el amor que me tiene. Te quiero mucho.



### **Mary Servín**

Major: B.A. in Psychology | Minor: Child and Adolescent Development

Millones de Gracias! Por una Gran Experiencia llena de Cultura, Dedicacion y Amor! Para Mis Queridos Padres. Jose y Maria Elena; Mis Hijos, Veronica, Christina, TJ; Mis Nietos, Vickie, Frankie, Gjosiah, Isaiah, Eric, Zeeky, Gabriel, Aleena; Toda Mi Familia y Amigos

"Con mucho Amor y Carino". Dedicated to you for your conditional Love! Experience life tot the fullest, follow your dreams, and tell your loved ones you love them!

## **Cynthia Uribe**

Major: B.A. in Sociology concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Mexican American Studies

Primeramente quiero agradecer a mis padres por todo el apoyo que me han brindado, ellos han sido mi fuerza durante todos estos años. Gracias a ellos soy una mujer capaz de realizar cualquier meta que me proponga. Pero realmente no hay palabras para expresar este agradecimiento tan grande que tengo hacia ellos. También quiero agradecer a mi familia, a mi novio, a mis amigas y por supuesto a mis maestros. Gracias por creer en mí!



## **Daisy Valencia**

Major: B.A. in Political Science | Minor: Criminal Justice

I would like to thank my friends and family for all their support throughout the years. I would especially like to thank my Mom for always encouraging me to succeed and to accomplish my goals. I also want to thank Alonzo for always being there for me however he could. I'm grateful for each and every one of you.



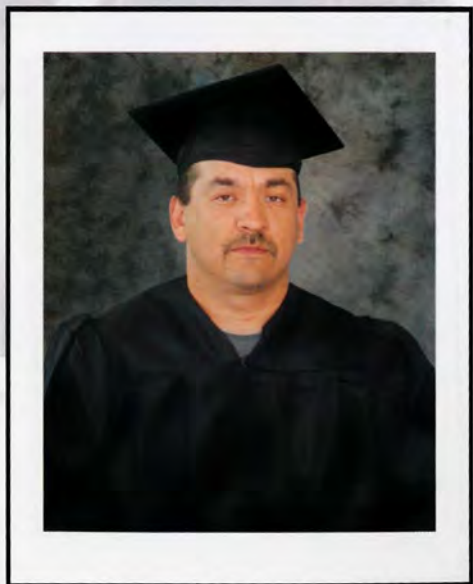




### **Ruth Vasquez**

Major: B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology  
Minor: Spanish

I would like to dedicate this accomplishment to my family because they have been very supportive as well as inspirational. There is nothing better in life than knowing you have people that love you and want the best for you and my family is exactly that, the best!!!! To all the lovely ladies of Sigma Omega Phi I just want to say, thank you for all the fun and great memories that we shared. I LOVE YOU GIRLS!!!!!!!!!!!!



### **Maximo Zepeda**

Major: B.S. in International Business | Minor: Area Studies

Special thanks to mom, Esther, Becky, Aida and Naomi without your love and support I would not be graduating, I love you all. Thank you to all my brothers (past & present) at the Ta Chi Fraternity with your help I have developed the necessary skills to succeed in my college and pot-college career. The Ta Chi, Gamma Xi for life.

Chicano Commencement Committee would like to thank everyone for helping with such a huge project. During the printing of this book, the committee noticed a few bios that were not correctly placed. As such we offer those students an apology and provide this insert as a formal correction.

### Leticia Barajas

Major: B.A. in Sociology emphasis in Criminology

I will never forget and always cherish my college experience. Having my parents support has been invaluable in helping me succeed in college. I would like to give thanks to my parents Jesse y Roselia and the rest of my family for encouraging me always to accomplish my goals. This thanks also goes to the lovely ladies of Sigma Omega Phi, you girls have been my family away from home.



### Francisco Diaz

Major: B.A. in Kinesiology

Le doy gracias a Dios por darme la dicha de llegar a este momento. En especial a mis padres, gracias por su amor, apoyo y sabiduría que me han brindado durante toda mi vida. Jeza, Cuca and Vero, by being who you are you have shown me the road to success and many other important lessons about life. Thank you for everything, I love you girls.



### Ruben R. Flores

Major: B.S in Civil Engineering

Quisiera darle gracias a Dios, a mis padres, Irma y Ruben, por apoyarme, guiarme, y siempre estar presente cuando los necesito. Dad, gracias por abrirme puertas. Mom, gracias por tu cariño. Mita, por ser fuerte and being there. Chio, por hacerme sentir como un niño y hacerme reir. Liz thanks for being part of my life. Gracias a mis amigos, familiares y hermanos por vida: GAMMA ZETA ALPHA, mi segunda familia.



### Javier Garibay

Major: International Business  
Minor: Area Studies

Special thanks to mom, Esther, Becky, Aida, and Naomi. Without your love and support I would not be graduating. I love you all. Thank You to all my brothers (past & present) at the Theta Chi Fraternity with your help I have developed the necessary skills to succeed in my college and post-college career. Theta Chi, Gamma Xi for Life.



### Felipe Gutierrez

Major: B.A. in Sociology emphasis in Criminology

Quiero tomar este tiempo para darle gracias a mis padres por todo el sacrificio y esfuerzo que han enfocado en mi. Desde niño tengo recuerdos de mis padres tratando de darnos la mejor vida posible. Siempre nos han tratado de darnos la mejor impresión del sueño Americano y darnos lo que ellos nunca tuvieron. Y en este día tan especial quiero ser el de darles la gracias por su apoyo en poder cumplir mis sueños universitarios. As my little cousin Emiliano once said, "we made it."



### Maximo Zepeda

Major: Behavioral Science | Sociology  
Minor: Area Studies

I would not be here if it weren't for my family. Thank you for your love and support in my journey out here. It has been a very long road and the most difficult part of it all is being away from home. You all have made this possible. The books, the rides, the care packages, and everything else you helped me with, I truly appreciate it. To my homies back home, those who understand, acknowledge, and respect what I do; I send great love to them. To Spo and the rest of the fellas...viva Chole...





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The Mexican American Alumni Association is organized for charitable and educational purposes. It is an organization dedicated to gaining greater access to education for our students and to expanding opportunities of success and advocacy for the greater Mexican American community.

#### The Association will:

- Promote networking between the Mexican American alumni of SJSU
- Participate in role model activities through mentor programs
- Promote a speaker bureau
- Sponsor professional development seminars
- Promote Networking Activities
- Sponsor Mexican-American Student Leadership Seminars and Activities
- Provide Scholarships for Mexican American Student
- Support the Mexican American Alumni Endowment
- Promote Fundraising Activities
- Advocate for Greater Educational Access and Employment Opportunities.

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## Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Facultad de Ingenieria - Campus Mexicali

El personal directivo, academico, administrativo y de servicio de la facultad de ingenieria de la UABC, manifiesta su pesar y se une al dolor que embarga a familiares y amigos de:

### Priscila Aguirre Oropeza de 21 anos

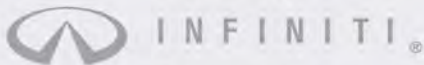
Alumna de la carrera de Ingenieria Civil de esta Facultad, Quien falleciera el pasado Miercoles 13 de abril en esta ciudad. Esperamos sinceramente que encuentren en sus corazones una pronta resignacion ante esta perdida irreparable.

### Descanse en paz

Mexicali, B.C., a 16 de Abril de 2005.

Siempre seras una Ingeniera Civil desde el cielo y estaras siempre en nuestros corazones. Con amor La Familia Aguirre - Mayo 2006

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Chicana/o and Latina/o Graduates  
San Jose State University - Spring 2006

The faculty and staff of the Mexican American Studies Department wish you the best of luck on this wonderful day. We are very proud of you, and know that your families feel the same way. Buena Suerte

Perlita Dicochea, Julia Curry-Rodriguez, Lou Holscher, Gregorio Mora-Torres, Marcos Pizarro, Mildred Salazar, Phillip Tabera, and Erlinda Yanez



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# Thank You

The Chicano Commencement Class of 2006 would like to thank the following:

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Grupo Folklorico Luna Y Sol

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La Estrellita Restaurant

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Remembering our past **empowering our future**

# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHICANO COMMENCEMENT

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